



Research Questions

How do queer students of color develop, describe and make meaning through self-authorship of their racial and sexual orientations at a predominantly White institution?

Which element of their identity is the most salient?

How does their saliency influence their self authorship?

Methodology

This study consisted of:

- six individual interviews grounded in the heuristic method
- students self identifying
- interviews that were transcribed, coded and analyzed for emerging themes

Selected References

Baxter Magolda, M. (2001). *Making their own way: Narratives for transforming higher education to promote self-development*. Sterling, VA: Stylus.

Crenshaw, K. (1991). Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color. *Stanford Law Review*, 43(6), 1241-1299. doi:10.2307/1229039

Kegan, R. (1994). *In over our heads: the mental demands of modern life*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

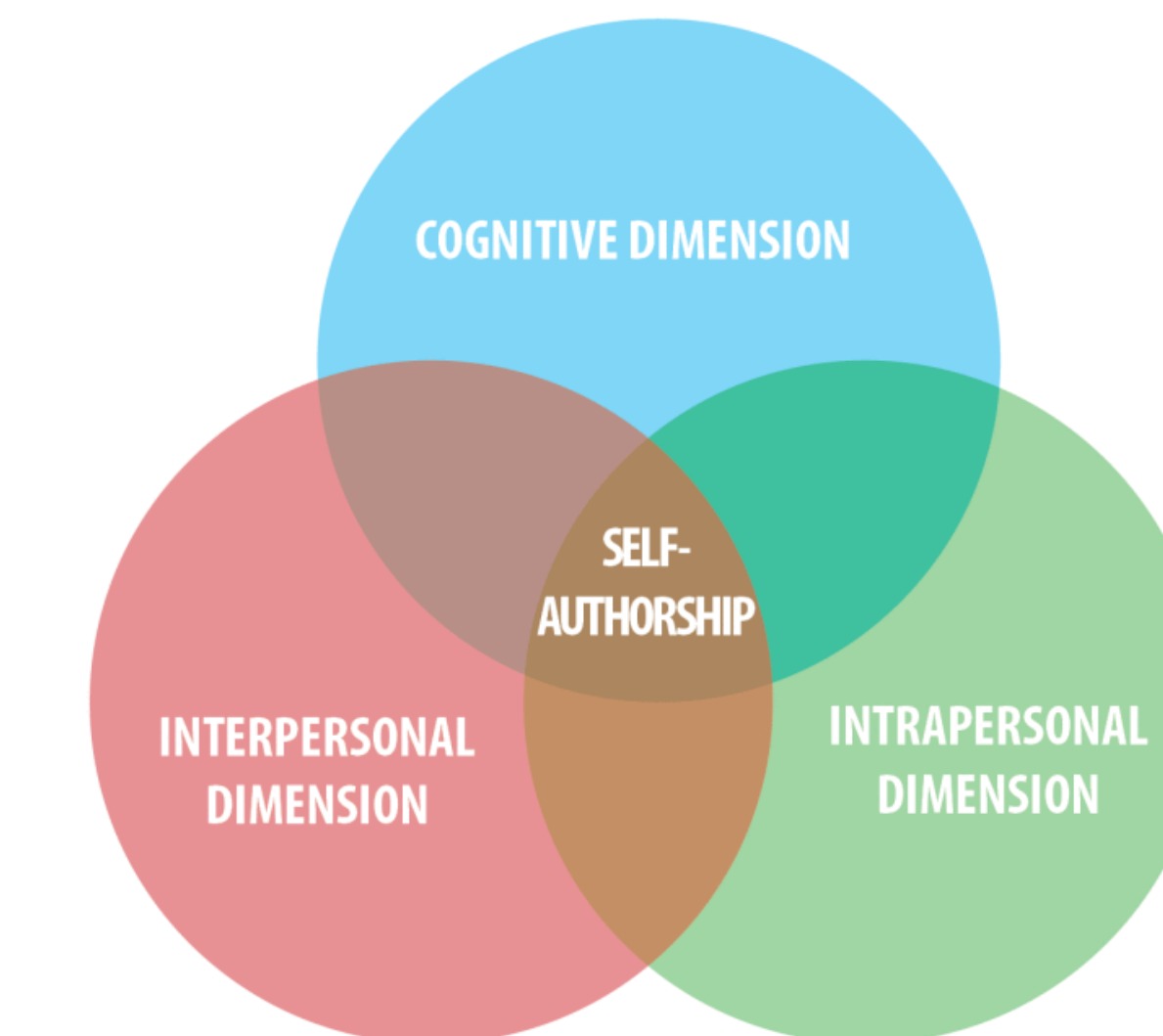
Mertens, D. M. (2015). *Research and evaluation in education and psychology: Integrating diversity with quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications



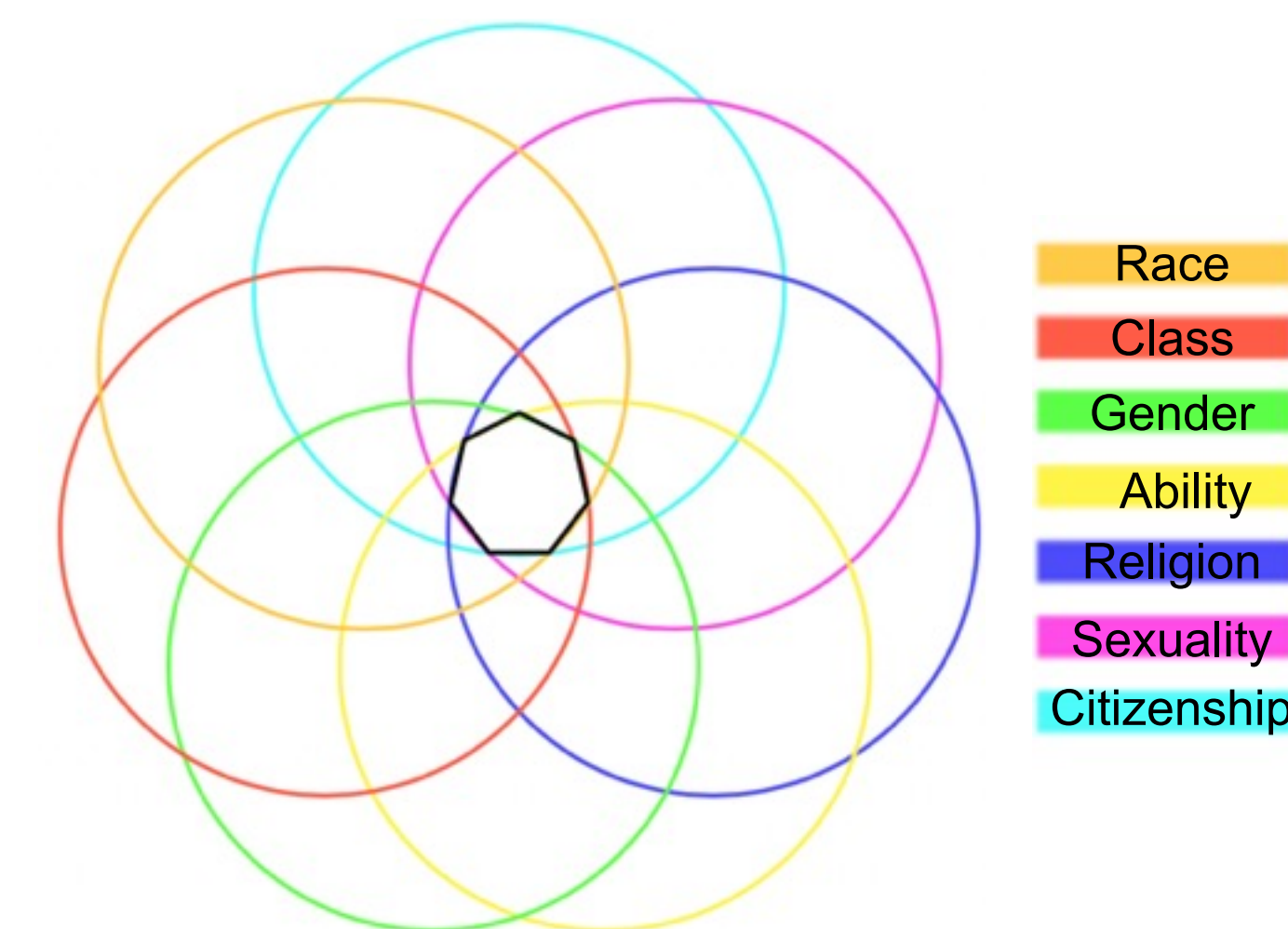
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Literature



Self-Authorship
(Baxter Magolda, 2001)



Intersectionality
(Crenshaw, 1991)

Research Themes

Compensation through Perfectionism

- Perceived Expectations set by others
- Expectations set by self

Compensation through Education

- Inquisitive Nature as knowledge is valued
- Knowledge is seen as an advancement and tied personally to self

Compensation through Socializing

- Value is placed highly on others opinions
- High emphasis on relationships

Implications

- A need for more literature and focus on self-authorship and the intersectionality of race and sexual orientation in queer students of color
- This is future ground work for further studies on queer students of color and the impact of these variables on this population
- To support queer students of color we must understand how they compensate, in an attempt to gain validation, so that we can better create an environment that is conducive for their development.